ing among the marshal's men. I saw it; and told John of Gaunt, he beat his own name [6]: for you might have truss'd * him, and all his apparel, into an eel-skin; the case of a treble hautboy was a mansion for him, a court: and now has he land and beeves. Well; I will be acquainted with him* if I return: and it shall go hard, but I will make him a philosopher's two stones to me[7]: If the young dace[8]

* Quartos, *thrust.*

[e] Whose chariot wheels have *burst* th' Assyrian's bones."

Again, in Holinshed, p. 809: " that manie a speare was *burst,* and manie a great stripe given."

To *brast* had the same meaning. Barrett, in his Alvearie, or Quadruple Dictionary, 1580, calls a housebreaker " a breaker and *braster* of doors/* The same author constantly uses *burst* as synonymous to *broken.* See vol. v. p. 358, n.5. STEEVENS.

[6] — beat his own NAME :] That is, beat *gaunt,* a fellow so slender, that his name might have been *gaunt.* JOHNSON.

[7] — ^philosopher's TWO stones—] One of which was an universal medicine, and the other a trans muter of base metals into gold. WARBURTON.

I believe the commentator has refined this passage too much. A philosopher's two stones is only more than the philosopher's stone. The universal medicine was never, so far as I know, conceived to be a stone before the time of Butler's stone. JOHNSON.

Mr. Edwards ridicules Dr. Warburton's note on this passage, but without reason. Gower has a chapter in his Confessio Amantis, ** Of the *three* stones that philosophres made:" and Chaucer, in his tale of the Chanon's Yeman, expressly tells us, that one of them is *Alixar cleped;* and that it is a *water* made of the four elements. *Face,* in the Alchymist, assures us, it is " a stone, and not a stone." FARMER.

That the ingredients of which this *Elixir,* or *Universal Medicine,* was composed, were by no means difficult of acquisition, maybe proved by the following conclusion of a letter written by Villiers Duke of Buckingham to King James I. on the subject of the *Philosopher's Stone.* See the second volume of

Roval Letters in the British Museum, No. 6987, art. 101:

** — I confess, so longe as he conseled the meanes he wrought by, I dispised all he said: but when he tould me, that which he hath given your sovrainship to preserve you from all sicknes ever hereafter, was extracted out of at—d, I admired the fellow: and for theis reasons: that being a stranger to you,